

14 October 2008

Chem-Bio News

1. U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY TO EXTEND PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL LABORATORY MANAGEMENT AND OPERATING CONTRACT:

"Secretary of Energy Samuel W. Bodman today announced his decision to authorize a four-year contract extension for the management and operation of the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL), located in Richland, Washington, to Battelle Memorial Institute, a non-profit organization based in Columbus, Ohio."

2. TSA TO TRACK RAIL MOVEMENTS OF HAZARDOUS CARGO: *"TSA has awarded a contract worth more than \$600,000 to Railinc Corp., a subsidiary of the Association of American Railroads, to provide it with a continuous data feed about rail car movements and bulk shipments of sensitive cargo, such as explosives, toxic inhalation hazardous materials and radioactive materials."*

3. RESEARCH SEEKS TO FIGHT BIOTERRORISM THROUGH SINGLE MOLECULE DETECTION: *"Kent State University's Qihuo Wei, an assistant professor of the Chemical Physics Interdisciplinary Program, recently received a grant to support research that may lead to better detection of bioterror agents at the molecular level."*

4. DEFENSE BILL INCLUDES NUCLEAR FORENSICS PROVISION: *"About eight months after the release of this report, "Nuclear Forensics: Role, State of the Art, Program Needs," and Rep. Bill Foster's (D-IL) introduction of H.R. 5929, the Nuclear Terrorism Deterrence and Detection Act (see more), Congress passed legislation requiring the development of a nuclear forensics R&D plan."*

Chem-Demil News

1. FEMA HELPS INDIANA COMMUNITIES PLAN FOR CLOSEOUT OF THE CHEMICAL STOCKPILE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM:

"The most lasting legacy of CSEPP in the Newport community was working intensely over the past one and a half years with State and county officials to explore all options and support levels to maintain some emergency management programs post-CSEPP."

CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY TO EXTEND PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL LABORATORY MANAGEMENT AND OPERATING CONTRACT

US Department of Energy News Release
October 3, 2008

"Secretary of Energy Samuel W. Bodman today announced his decision to authorize a four-year contract extension for the management and operation of the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL), located in Richland, Washington, to Battelle Memorial Institute, a non-profit organization based in Columbus, Ohio. The Battelle management and operating (M&O) contract will be extended through September 30, 2012.

DOE's decision would also extend a companion contract, the Battelle "Use Permit" that allows use of laboratory resources for Battelle's commercial business, to remain in effect through September 30, 2012, at which time Battelle and DOE have agreed that all Use Permit activities will be concluded or transitioned over to the M&O contract (see background attachment for more information)."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.doe.gov/news/6621.htm>

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TSA TO TRACK RAIL MOVEMENTS OF HAZARDOUS CARGO

By Jacob Goodwin

Government Security News

October 14, 2008

"TSA has awarded a contract worth more than \$600,000 to Railinc Corp., a subsidiary of the Association of American Railroads, to provide it with a continuous data feed about rail car movements and bulk shipments of sensitive cargo, such as explosives, toxic inhalation hazardous materials and radioactive materials.

The continuous data about "Railroad Sensitive Security Materials" (RSSM) will include records from all 450 reporting rail carriers in the U.S., according to a contract award notice released by TSA on Oct. 6."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.gsnmagazine.com/cms/market-segments/rail-security/1093.html>

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RESEARCH SEEKS TO FIGHT BIOTERRORISM THROUGH SINGLE MOLECULE DETECTION

Kent State University News Release

October 13, 2008

"Kent State University's Qihuo Wei, an assistant professor of the Chemical Physics Interdisciplinary Program, recently received a grant to support research that may lead to better detection of bioterror agents at the molecular level.

The grant will support Professor Wei's three-year project, titled "Scaling Laws for Nano-field-Effect-Transistor Biosensors."

Wei's research is supported by a \$200,000 grant from the National Science Foundation. By developing a fundamental understanding of the size dependencies of such devices, Wei's ultimate goal is to push its sensitivity to the limit, leading to single molecule detection.

"Detection of trace amount chemical and biological molecules is highly demanded in various applications, ranging from disease diagnostics in health care to explosive detection in homeland defense," Wei says."

The full article can be found at: <http://einside.kent.edu/?type=art&id=90587>

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DEFENSE BILL INCLUDES NUCLEAR FORENSICS PROVISION

By Richard M. Jones

American Institute of Physics News Release

October 13, 2008

"A believable attribution capability may help to discourage behavior that could lead to a nuclear event," concluded a report issued earlier this year by a Joint Working Group of the American Physical Society and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The report continued, "A forensics capability that can trace material to the originating reactor or enrichment facility could discourage state cooperation with terrorist elements and encourage better security for nuclear weapon usable materials."

About eight months after the release of this report, "Nuclear Forensics: Role, State of the Art, Program Needs," and Rep. Bill Foster's (D-IL) introduction of H.R. 5929, the Nuclear Terrorism Deterrence and Detection Act (see more), Congress passed legislation requiring the development of a nuclear forensics R&D plan. This bill, S. 3001, the FY 2009 defense authorization act, has been sent to the White House for the expected signature of President George Bush."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.aip.org/fyi/2008/100.html>

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Chem-Demil News

FEMA HELPS INDIANA COMMUNITIES PLAN FOR CLOSEOUT OF THE CHEMICAL STOCKPILE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM

Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program News Release

Undated

“Residents near the U.S. Army’s Newport Chemical Depot no longer live with the threat of deadly chemical weapons. The pathway to a safer community began with the demilitarization of the agent on May 5, 2005 and continued until the entire stockpile of the VX nerve agent stored at the Newport Chemical Depot was destroyed on Aug. 8, 2008. The chemical warfare agent is gone, but a robust emergency preparedness capability continues—thanks to a partnership between the FEMA’s National Preparedness Directorate, U.S. Army, State and county Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP) personnel.

From 1961 through 1968, Newport manufactured all VX chemical agent for the U.S. defense stockpile. In 1969, President Richard Nixon issued a unilateral decree halting production and transport of chemical weapons including the last two batches of VX produced at Newport. Army facilities in Ala., Ark., Colo., Ky., Ore., and Utah still have chemical weapons stockpiles. The stockpile at the Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., was destroyed in 2005.

CSEPP was created by Congress in 1989 to assist communities near the U.S. Army chemical stockpile installations develop an emergency preparedness capability to protect residents and respond to the unlikely event of a chemical stockpile accident. The FEMA/Army CSEPP partnership continues to provide assistance to the remaining six chemical stockpile sites.

Prior to CSEPP, the Newport area county emergency management agencies had very limited capabilities. CSEPP enabled the communities to build robust public safety systems that include expanded emergency operations centers, public alert and notification systems, interoperable public safety communications systems and emergency public information and education programs.

The CSEPP legislation stipulates that the program will be closed out in the participating communities once the stockpile is destroyed. FEMA personnel worked closely with State and County emergency management personnel and elected officials to plan for the close out of the Newport CSEPP.

FEMA assisted Indiana State and county officials identify the public safety systems equipment that will be retained to benefit the community. Examples include the indoor and outdoor warning systems that were purchased with CSEPP funding to warn residents of a chemical incident using tone alert radios in their homes and 44 sirens. These devices will now be utilized to alert residents of severe weather. Indiana recently passed a law requiring each county develop a warning systems plan by 2010 and the CSEPP counties are now well ahead of their peers in meeting this new requirement. A state-wide 800 MHz radio system and microwave communication system links first responders in the CSEPP counties to the State system. Also within the CSEPP counties are 24 highway readerboards used for public safety messages and to assist with evacuation information. Other equipment that will be retained includes emergency operations centers and decontamination equipment and supplies.

CSEPP will also leave behind in the Newport community a 20-year legacy of emergency management assistance that includes coordinated plans, annual exercises, extensive

training in protective action decision making, public education and emergency public information. First responders have successfully completed training in hazardous materials response and decontamination procedures—skills that will continue to benefit the community. Regional approaches to emergency preparedness and response were extensively used during CSEPP and the Indiana communities will continue to participate in regional task forces that were established by the State. CSEPP-trained personnel also respond to other communities throughout the U.S. to assist during emergencies or serve as exercise evaluators.

The most lasting legacy of CSEPP in the Newport community was working intensely over the past one and a half years with State and county officials to explore all options and support levels to maintain some emergency management programs post-CSEPP. Exploring staffing levels, integrating the CSEPP counties into the Emergency Management Performance Grants system, and educating current and nominees for elected and appointed officials on the State Law and their liabilities and responsibilities were just a few of the major issues addressed.

CSEPP is proud of its legacy programs in the two communities that have completed the destruction of chemical warfare agents, but the job is not finished. FEMA's National Preparedness Directorate is actively working in the remaining six CSEPP communities to ensure an emergency management capability is maintained until the day when our country will be rid of the deadly chemical warfare agents stockpiles."

The full article can be found at: https://www.cseppportal.net/links/Public_documents/NEWPORT_Closeout_Article_pix_9_17_08.pdf

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